

FLORA NORTH AMERICA.—The newly formed Editorial Committee of *Flora North America*, as the project will be called, met for the first time on January 30, 1967, at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. This three-day meeting, convened by William L. Stern (Smithsonian), Chairman *pro tem.* of the Steering Committee, was attended by all members of the Editorial Committee: Peter H. Raven, Chairman, Stanford University; Stanwyn G. Shetler, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; John H. Beaman, Michigan State University; Kenton L. Chambers, Oregon State University; Robert Kral, Vanderbilt University; Walter H. Lewis, Missouri Botanical Garden; John T. Mickel, Iowa State University; Roy L. Taylor, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa; John H. Thomas, Stanford University; also attending were Robert F. Thorne (Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden), Chairman of the Advisory Council, and Vernon H. Heywood (University of Liverpool), Secretary of *Flora Europaea*, who served as a consultant in the discussions and gave a concluding public lecture, "*Flora Europaea*, Its Conception and History," on 1 February. The purpose of the project is to prepare a concise diagnostic manual to the vascular plants of the continental United States, Canada, and Greenland, and the Editorial Committee dealt at least in a preliminary way with a large range of questions concerning the roles of the respective committees, the functioning of the Editorial Committee and its secretariat, the solicitation of authors and advisors, and the format, arrangement, timetable, and funding for *Flora North America*. It is expected that the first 12 to 18 months will be occupied getting the project fully organized and the working procedures implemented. This will be followed by the second phase of intensive writing and editing for the first volume. Tentatively, four volumes, followed by a fifth comprising a theoretical symposium on the North American flora, are anticipated. The whole effort is expected to last 12–15 years. A full progress report on *Flora North America* will be published at an early date. The Editorial Committee will convene its next meeting at College Station, Texas, in August 1967, when the American Institute of Biological Sciences holds its annual meetings at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The first meeting was financed by the Smithsonian Office of Systematics (Richard S. Cowan, Director).—STANWYN G. SHETLER, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

HETERANTHERA LIMOSA IN CALIFORNIA. — In June, 1966, Donald E. Seaman (at that time, Assistant Research Botanist, University of California, Davis) noted in a rice field in Glenn County a water weed, *H. limosa* (Sw.) Willd. ("duck salad", or "mud plaintain"), of the family Pontederiaceae, which had not previously been reported in California. On June 30, we visited the area with Seaman to observe the plant and to make a large collection (*McCaskill 713* and *Tucker, DAV*).

This location is on the farm of Harvell Hansen, Sr., about three miles southwest of Codora, Glenn Co. According to Carl Wick, Butte Co. Farm Advisor, about 100 acres are infested here. We observed it in a number of individual plots between County Road U and Willow Creek, 1.2 miles south of County Road 61 ("Riz Road"). It was most abundant along the west side of several of the low levees between plots, in water 8–10 inches in depth, the leaf blades and flowering peduncles projecting above the surface. Of the plants in flower that we examined closely, most were also maturing seed in abundance. Flower color was consistently white, although it is often described in manuals as blue. Wick has subsequently reported finding a second infestation in Glenn Co. (ca. 3 miles southeast of Willows), and two in Butte Co. (one at Biggs, the other just north of Richvale).

Current manuals record *H. limosa* for the southern and midwestern states, and indicate a range extending as far west as Colorado, New Mexico, southeastern Arizona, and Sonora. Although apparently not previously reported in the literature in California, Thomas C. Fuller, California State Department of Agriculture, Sacramento, informs us that two sheets of this species, collected in Glenn Co. in 1948, are filed in the State Department of Agriculture Herbarium in Sacramento. Thus, since the plant has existed in this rice-growing area for at least eighteen years, it probably does not pose a very serious weed threat.—JOHN M. TUCKER and JUNE MCCASKILL, Department of Botany, University of California, Davis.